

B<sup>2</sup> At page 25, lines 4-6, please replace the abstract with --The present invention provides methods for modulating, e.g., inhibiting, the activity of MSH5.--.

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-14 and 18-21 without prejudice and amend claims 15 and 16 as follows:

B<sup>3</sup> Sub C1  
15. (Amended) A method for modulating [the activity of MSH5] MSH5 expression or activity comprising contacting MSH5 or a cell expressing MSH5 with a compound [which binds to MSH5] in a sufficient concentration to modulate [the activity of MSH5] MSH5 expression or activity.

16. (Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the expression or activity of MSH5 is inhibited.

Please add new claims 22-31 as follows:

- B<sup>4</sup>
22. The method of claim 15, wherein said compound is a contraceptive agent.
23. The method of claim 15, wherein said compound is capable of modulating MSH5 expression.
24. The method of claim 23, wherein said compound is an antisense MSH5 nucleic acid molecule.
25. The method of claim 15, wherein said compound is a small molecule.
26. The method of claim 15, wherein said compound is an MSH5 antibody.
27. The method of claim 15, wherein said compound is a peptide.
28. The method of claim 15, wherein said compound is a peptidomimetic.